



Photo by Morgan's Studio

Narrow Escape for Central Office

Fire Broke Out Last Saturday Morning in Heart of Town. Chief Operator Escapes from Second Story Through Window. Phone Switchboard Out of Use for 24 Hours. Effectiveness of Fire Truck Demonstrated. Town Places Order for Electric Fire Alarm System, with Boxes in Various Parts of Town.

Rockingham was without phone service from 10 o'clock last Saturday morning to 10:30 Sunday night—due to fire which gutted the lower part of one-half of the Central building.

The alarm was sounded about 10 o'clock, and with remarkable suddenness the fire gained headway. The truck was quick in responding, but by the time it arrived, smoke in dense volume was pouring from the lower windows. The fire started in the rear room under the Central office, possibly from a live coal dropping from the furnace door. At any rate, the furnace room was in flames and the rubber insulations therein intensified the smoke. Due to the fact that the building is next to the Hotel, and on Main street, two lines of hose were stretched and these with the chemical hose were soon playing upon the smoke filled rooms. At first it was difficult to locate the actual flames, and as a precaution, water was sent into the office occupied by H. B. Humphrey and also into the

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Phones in Hotel.

Rockingham has one of the best all-round hotels in the State. And now a still further big improvement has been made in the installation of telephones in each room. A switchboard is in the hotel office, and the operator there gives connection with the regular Sou. Bell service and long distance.

M. S. Moore, of the Sou. Bell, has been installing the system this past week, and hopes to make final connection either tonight or Friday. Fortunately, when the hotel was built the owners wisely looked ahead to just such a time as this, and had the building properly wired.

Auto Speed Laws.

The last Legislature changed the speed law so that cars can go as fast as 30 miles an hour on country roads; through residential sections of towns 20 miles, and through business sections 10 miles.

Dog Was Mad.

A red-bone hound belonging to A. H. Farmer, one mile north of town, went mad Tuesday and bit, or bit at, several persons. Mr. Farmer and Mr. Lake Maske killed the animal, after it had bit at the former, and sent the head Tuesday night to the State Laboratory at Raleigh for examination. A telegram came back Wednesday that the dog was mad.

Henry Wallace carried his little boy Bill, and Lake Maske carried his daughter Mary this (Thursday) morning to Raleigh to take the Pasteur treatment. The dog tried to bite Hurley and Walter Farmer, but did not break the skin. He bit at Mr. Farmer, and a slight incision was made in Mr. Farmer's left leg, but Mr. Farmer is confident the animal's teeth did not break through. Neither Mr. Farmer nor his boys went to Raleigh, they not feeling alarmed. A local physician has ordered the treatment and will give it to them here.

The Postoffice Status.

Some weeks ago W. S. Thomas, postmaster at Rockingham, sent in his resignation to take effect March 31st. He did this because he knew the Republicans would get him out anyway in order to make a vacancy for their faithful. But even at this, the Democrats were more considerate of the Republicans than were the Republicans of the Democrats; because the former postmaster, Mrs. Cameron, was allowed to serve two years under a Democratic regime whereas the Democratic postmaster is kicked out in half that time under Republican rule.

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TWO CAPTURED

Officers Break Up Still Tuesday Near Norman and Capture Two Supposed Operators.

Alvis Bonner, colored, is in jail, and Ralph Cole, white, is under \$750 bond for their appearance at April 10th term of Court for trial for blockading. The two were caught by Sheriff McDonald and deputies Tuesday shortly after noon in Mineral Springs township, about a mile and a half from Norman.

The Sheriff, with officers Shores, Reynolds and Key, closed in on the still and watched it in operation for some time. They finally rushed in; three men were at work. The negro Bonner did not run, but threw up his hands, but the two white men took to the bushes. McDonald and Shores ran one for three-quarters of a mile, and the going was so speedy that both the pursuers and pursued became so winded that neither of the three could run; they finally slowed into a walk and the blockader slipped from view in a swamp. The third man was chased by Key, but managed to get out of sight. A few minutes later the officers came on him in the road with his Ford stuck in a ditch. He had managed to get to his car, but in making a short turn into the road he had slipped into the ditch. The officers arrested him, his name being Ralph Cole. They positively identified him as the man at the still and the one whom Key chased. The two prisoners were brought to Rockingham. Cole waived a hearing and his father, Eli Cole, furnished bond in sum of \$750 for his appearance at April 10th term of Court. Bonner is still in jail. The still was of 75-gallons capacity, and 5 gallons of whiskey was seized.

Negro Shot by Brant Shankle at Norwood.

The following account is taken from the Stanly News-Herald, published at Albemarle, of Feb. 28th, of the shooting of a negro by Brant Shankle at Norwood last Saturday. The negro is apparently recovering. Mr. Shankle was lodged in jail at Albemarle awaiting outcome of the man's injuries, but has now been released on bail. He is well remembered in Richmond county, having run a grocery store on Watson Heights and farmed in the country. He moved back to Norwood last year. About a year ago he was very badly injured when his Ford wrecked, and was laid in Hamlet hospital for weeks; after recovering he moved to Norwood. His friends regret his present trouble.

"On Saturday afternoon Brant Shankle shot a negro at Norwood."

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TUCKER REPLIES TO LONG

M. L. Tucker Says W. F. Long, Jr., Promised Him Rockingham Postoffice. B. C. Crawford Makes Affidavit That Long, Brown, McDonald and Dockery Told Him of Committee's Decision About Endorsements. Tucker Asks "Who Has the Dirty Linen?"

In our issue of Feb. 16th the Post-Dispatch had an editorial in reference to the Republican fight for the Rockingham postoffice. This paper stated that it was reported that the Republican Executive committee had agreed to sign no endorsements for any candidate until the committee as a unit should give the various candidates an opportunity to be heard, and should then pass upon the matter.

Mr. W. F. Long, Jr., chairman of the Republican Executive Committee for Richmond county, replied to this editorial, and the letter was published in full in this paper of Feb. 23rd. In his letter he stated that no such resolution regarding endorsement had ever passed the committee. Further on in his letter he made reference to a conversation he and M. L. Tucker had regarding the postoffice, and then in another paragraph said, "I do not approve of any Republican trying to air his dirty linen through the medium of the press."

Inasmuch as Mr. Long singled out Mr. Tucker, the latter has seen fit to reply; as a matter of fact, Mr. Tucker was not the source from which the editor of the Post-Dispatch secured his original information regarding the resolution which it was commonly reported had been agreed upon by the committee. Here is the letter which M. L. Tucker has given this paper with request that it be published; and, by the way, it might be well to say just here that Mr. Tucker informs the editor that he is not now a candidate for the office:

"Rockingham, N. C.,
 February 28, 1922.

"Mr. I. S. London,
 Editor Post-Dispatch,
 Rockingham, N. C.

"Dear Sir:—
 Please allow me space in your paper to reply to a letter written by Mr. W. F. Long, Jr., which appeared in your issue of Feb. 23rd.

"First, I want to state that Mr. Long has told a PART of the story. He has told the part that most suited his covetous purposes and has left untold the part that would have shown up his cunning trickery.

Now in regard to the postoffice
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Austin for Clerk.

Every week sees a new candidate enter the ring. The latest is H. P. Austin, Recorder at Hamlet, who Wednesday informed the Post-Dispatch that he is a candidate for Clerk of Court.

This makes five candidates for Clerk, they being: J. A. McAulay, W. S. Thomas, C. E. D. Egerton, T. L. Covington and H. P. Austin.

Road Projects.

The State Highway Commission last week let the contract for a gravel road from Aberdeen to the Richmond county line at Drowning Creek, distance of 7.14 miles, to the Gibson Construction Co., for \$23,437.40, and bridges to C. A. Nunn for \$32,493.

Also, road from Aberdeen to Hoke county line, 2.96 miles, gravel, to C. E. Teague for \$6,991.31.

Boll Weevil Discussed.

The boll weevil meeting held in the courthouse Wednesday was presided over by Senator W. L. Parsons; the five speakers from the Extension Division of the A. & E. College addressed over 200 farmers, business men, bankers, educators and agricultural students on the following subjects:

Mr. G. M. Garren—"Cultural Methods under Weevil Conditions."

Jno. A. Arey—"A Cow for Every Family."

W. W. Shay—"Hog Production and Marketing Under Weevil Conditions."

W. Bruce Maber—"Some Weevil Control Measures."

Franklin Sherman—"Boll Weevil Poisoning."

The audience remained almost to a man until 1 p. m., and then returned at 2 p. m. for the afternoon session. The talks were intensely interesting and practical and those who came, went home with both something to think over and do.

A fuller account will appear in next week's issue by Mr. Barton.

Terry Hamlet Postmaster.

Jenks Terry was last week nominated by President Harding for postmaster Hamlet. He will of course be confirmed. It is not known yet when he will take charge of the Hamlet office.

William Desmond Taylor production.

"THE WITCHING HOUR"
Friday, March 3rd
AT THE STAR THEATRE

Come one, come all. Matinee 2:30, night at 7 o'clock.

You are Never Secure from Fire

but you are secured from going "broke" after the fire if your property is properly insured.

Others consider it better to pay a little for insurance than to lose a lot by fire. How about you?

We represent the most reliable companies in America.

RICHMOND INSURANCE & REALTY COMPANY
 A. G. CORFENING, Sec-Treas. Office in Hotel Building

Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The regular annual meeting of the Stockholders of The Richmond County Savings Bank, Rockingham, N. C., will be held in their Banking Quarters, on **WEDNESDAY, March 15th, 1922, at Eleven o'clock.**
W. L. SCALES, Cashier.

February 15th, 1922.

The Richmond County Savings Bank
 ROCKINGHAM, N. C.
 "The Bank on the Square"

Open each SATURDAY until 5 p. m.